

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 09382 291703Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

-----090718 300306Z /72

R 291555Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV CG PINT

SUBJECT: ZAIRE'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: KINSHASA 8492

1. SUMMARY: AS ZAIRE'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN DRAWS TO A CLOSE, THE PRESS COUPLES CRITICISM OF THE DEFICIENCIES OF MANY OF THE CANDIDATES WITH COVERAGE OF THE SUBSTANTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORT BEING MADE BY THE GOZ. ALTHOUGH IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW HONEST THE ELECTIONS WILL BE, MANY CANDIDATES ARE SERIOUSLY CAMPAIGNING. END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTS FROM THE CONSULATES AND COMMENTS BY RELIABLE SOURCES RETURNING TO KINSHASA FROM TRIPS TO THE INTERIOR CORROBORATE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF CONSIDERABLE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT ZAIRE. TOWNS ARE LIBERALLY DECORATED WITH CAMPAIGN POSTERS, WHILE THE SUCCESSION OF POLITICAL RALLIES IS STRAINING ZAIRE'S SUPPLIES OF BEER. SOME CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN TAKING FULL-PAGE ADS IN ZAIRE'S DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND SPENDING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ON OTHER CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AS WELL. CERTAIN CANDIDATES HAVE LIKEWISE BEEN GIVEN TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 09382 291703Z

3. EMBASSY'S EXAMINATION OF THE LIST OF 167 CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE 18 ELECTED SEATS ON THE POLITICAL BUREAU SHOWS ALMOST HALF OF THEM TO BE OLD "POLITICOS". THESE RANGE ACROSS VIRTUALLY THE FULL POLITICAL SPECTRUM OF ZAIRE, AND INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE OLD "BINZA GROUP" (NENDAKA BIKI AND BOMBOKO LOKUMBA), OLD ABAKO FIGURES (MUANDA LUMBU AND KINGOTOLO LUNIANGU) AS WELL AS VETERANS OF FEDEKA (E.G. KALONJI MUTAMBAYI) AND OF CONACO. SEVERAL HAVE IN

THE PAST BEEN SUSPECTED AND EVEN JAILED FOR DISLOYALTY TO THE MOBUTU REGIME, SUCH AS KINSHASA CANDIDATE EKONGO ODIMBA, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT (AND LATER PARDONED) FOR HIS ROLE IN C COUP PLOT IN THE EARLY 1970'S. ANOTHER CANDIDATE IN KIVU IS PALUKU SIVIRWA, WHO IS THE BROTHER OF PALUKU MUTOGHERWA, ONE OF THOSE JAILED FOR THE 1975 "COUT MANQUE". STILL ANOTHER, MUNGUL DIAKA, WAS INVOLVED IN THE MULELE UPRISING, WHILE KIWEWA FUMUKOY WAS ONCE ASSOCIATED WITH GIZENGA.

4. CANDIDATES FOR THE POLITICAL BUREAU ALSO INCLUDE RELATIONS OF SOME OF ZAIRE'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES, NOTABLY MOBUTU'S UNCLE LITHO. ALSO RUNNING IS SAKOMBI EKOPE, THE BROTHER OF KINSHASA'S URBAN COMMISSIONER, AND RUAKABUBA SINGA, COUSIN OF MOBUTU'S FORMER ADVISER BISENGIMANA. AMONG THE MORE INTERESTING NEW FACES ARE THOSE OF NDUDI NDUDI, WHO WAS EX-FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA'S ABLE DEFENSE ATTORNEY DURING THE RECENT TREASON TRIAL; AND KISOMBA KIAKU MAISI, OFTEN IDENTIFIED AS THE "THIRD RICHEST MAN" IN ZAIRE. A FULL LIST OF CANDIDATES WITH SHORT BIOGRAPHIC DATA, WHERE AVAILABLE, WILL BE FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM.

5. EVEN THE CONTROLLED ZAIRIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SCREENING PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE ELECTORAL LAW (KINSHASA 7039) HAS PROVEN RATHER POROUS AND THAT CERTAIN CANDIDATES WHO NOW PROMISE TO SERVE HONESTLY AND LOYALLY HAVE DUBIOUS RECORDS. THESE INCLUDE THOSE WHO ALLEGEDLY PILLAGED FIRMS THEY ACQUIRED DURING MOBUTU'S ABORTIVE "ZAIRIANIZATION" EXPERIMENT, FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 09382 291703Z

DISMISSED FOR CORRUPTION, AND FORMER PARTY CADRES GUILTY OF "SERIOUS FAILURES INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE REVOLUTION". IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THIS LAST SHORTCOMING DIFFERS FROM THE "SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF PARTY DISCIPLINE" WHICH, UNDER THE ELECTION LAW, RENDER THE GUILTY PARTY INELIGIBLE FOR CANDIDACY.

6. CAMPAIGN IRREGULARITIES DENOUNCED BY THE PRESS INCLUDE BRAWLS BETWEEN RIVAL CAMPAIGN STAFFS, DEFACING OF CAMPAIGN POSTERS,/' TRACTS PROCLAIMING THE RESULTS OF NON-EXISTENT OPINION POLLS, AT LEAST ONE CASE OF A CANDIDATE BRIBING A RADIO ANNOUNCER, AND THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF TRIBALISM. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO BEEN CRITICIZED FOR LACK OF NEUTRALITY AND FOR DEMANDING PAYMENT FOR VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS.

7. NOT SURPRISINGLY, A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS IN ORGANIZING THE ELECTIONS HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED. THE PROVISION OF THE ELECTORAL LAW REQUIRING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO RESIGN IF THEY COXOSE TO CAMPAIGN FOR OFFICE WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED, AT LEAST WITH REGARD TO OFFICIALS OF THE TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION IN KINSHASA, UNTIL AN EDITORIAL ON THIS SUBJECT APPEARED IN THE SEPTEMBER 19 EDITION OF THE KINSHASA DAILY "ELIMA". AS A RESULT OF OTHER DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED, THE GOZ MODIFIED ON SEPTEMBER 14 CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE ELECTORAL

LAW PUBLISHED MID-JULY. AMONG THE CHANGES IS THE REQUIREMENT THAT THREE WITNESSES (TEMOINS) BE APPOINTED TO EACH POLLING PLACE TO ASSIST THE ILLITERATE IN FILLING OUT THEIR BALLOTS. THE PRESS HAS NOW BEGUN ASKING HOW THESE INDIVIDUALS CAN BE PREVENTED FROM INFLUENCING THE ELECTORAL OUTCOME. ALSO, SHORTAGE OF FUEL, PARTICULARLY IN THE INTERIOR, MAY POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO TRANSPORT OF VOTERS AND BALLOT BOXES ON ELECTION DAYS.

8. AS THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD DRAWS TO A CLOSE, MOBUTU CAN HAVE REASON TO BE SATISFIED THAT HIS OBJECTIVE OF HAVING NUMEROUS CANDIDATES OF VARIED POLITICAL BACKGROUNDS RUNNING HARD FOR OFFICE AT ALL LEVELS HAS BEEN LARGELY ACHIEVED. EVEN IF THE REGIME HAS HAD TO "ENCOURAGE" SOME TO ENTER RACES WHERE CANDIDATES HAVE NOT BEEN PLENTIFUL, THE OVERALL APPEARANCE HAS BEEN ONE OF FAIRLY GENUINE, INTENSE CAM-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KINSHA 09382 291703Z

PAIGNING WITH THE REGIME GENERALLY TRYING TO FACILITATE RATHER THAN HINDER CANDIDATES' ACTIVITIES. THE LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES AND THE VIGOR WITH WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN CAMPAIGNING ARE DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE WITH THE DOUBTS EXPRESSED BY MANY OF OUR ZAIRIAN CONTACTS THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS FINALLY ANNOUNCED WILL NECESSARILY REFLECT THE ACTUAL VOTES CAST. IN THIS RESPECT THEY POINT OUT WARILY THAT BALLOT COUNTING IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF REGIME OFFICIALS. AT LEAST A FEW CANDIDATES, WHILE NOT EXPECTING TO WIN THIS TIME, SEEM TO BE LOOKING AHEAD WITH THE IDEA OF GAINING GREATER PROMINENCE NOW IN THE HOTE THAT THIS MAY IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES IN SUBSEQUENT (PERHAPS POST-MOBUTU) ELECTIONS. MANY, HOWEVER, ARE CAMPAIGNING SO HARD AND SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY THAT THEY OBVIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT NEXT MONTH'S ELECTIONS WILL IN FACT COUNT FOR SOMETHING.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA09382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770356-0310
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977099/aaaaahab.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a12a4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 8492
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1359311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a12a4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009